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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 8 April 1957

SUBJECT Rokita Chemical Combine at
Brzeg Dolny (Dyhernfurth)

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1. The Rokita Plant (Nadodrzańskie Zakłady Przemysłu Organicznego) "TZPO" "Rokita" at Dyhernfurth (Brzeg Dolny) is a nationalized chemical plant, which until late 1955, was under the control of the Central Administration for Dyestuffs and Semi-Finished Products (Centralny Zarząd Barwników i Polproduktów). In early 1956, the installation was placed under the control of the Central Administration of ERG (Centralny Zarząd E.R.G.) on ulica Nowogrodzka in Warsaw. The two central administrations mentioned are subordinate to the Ministry of the Chemical Industry on ulica Krucza in Warsaw. The ministry was headed by Minister Ruminski, a graduate chemist.

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2. Manager of the Rokita Plant was one Styka (fnu). He is an engineer.

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The following directors worked under him:

- a. Technical director, a graduate chemist who arrived a short time before August 1956;
- b. Administrative director;
- c. Director of investments, one Wladyslaw Sankiewicz, mechanical engineer,

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3. Due to the strictest central control, the general manager of the installation could not develop much initiative. In April 1956, the authority of the general manager was widened, however, and it was hoped that by this measure self-costs would be reduced and working conditions improved at the plant.
4. Prior to 1945, the Rokita installation belonged to the so-called "Anorgana" group (a group of anorganic chemical installations). "Sarin" (?) and "tabun" were manufactured. The plant was not damaged during the war and its installation was almost completely dismantled prior to mid-1946 when the Poles took over the installation. In late 1946, the Polish government decided to erect a chemical combine on the premises of the old installation. The installation has been in progress of expansion since 1947. Acetic anhydride was the first commodity to be produced. Additional installations for the production of chemical agents were put into operation. In August 1956, the first hall designed for the manufacture of W laria of potassium was nearing completion. The second hall of this plant was to be put into operation in the summer of 1957.

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SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

25X1

5. The production of tannins, oxygen and pest control agents was scheduled to be considerably enlarged after the construction of major plants in the northern portion of the factory area. A plant for the production of cyclohexanol was to be set up in the area of the former switching station. The production of chlorine had already been started.
6. The construction of a new thermo-electric power station provided with a boiler house designed for a maximum output of 300 tons of steam per hour and turbine house fitted with three turbine generators designed for 12 megawatts was planned.
7. Plans for the enlargement of the Rokita Works were controlled by the central administration and the ministry involved. The Bureau for Chemical Projects (Biprochem) which had its office at Gleiwitz (Gliwice) was concerned with detailed projecting work. Construction work at the installation was controlled by the Breslau construction firm "WPPB/nr. 2" (Wroclawskie Przedsiębiorstwo Przemysłu Budowlanego). This firm also employed subcontractors. The Rokita Works also had an independent construction department (Samodzielny Oddział Wykonawstwa Inwestycji) which was responsible for the execution of minor construction projects.
8. The Rokita Works are located north of the Oder River, about 15 km northwest of the railroad bridge on the Breslau-Wohlau railroad line. The plant was located on a hill on the southern edge of a large wooded area. The factory was conspicuous for its five smokestacks, each of which was 70 m high. Other landmarks of the installation are the tower of the fire station and an old elevated bunker on the northern portion of the factory area. Vulnerable points of the installation are the power plant, the transformer station and the pumping station on the bank of the Oder River. The factory area measures about 800 x 1,000 m and 20 percent of it was built up.
9. The factory has a standard gauge railroad connection and is equipped with two locomotives, one Diesel and one steam. The road from Dyhernfurth to the plant has an asphalt top. No shipments arrived at the plant by water.
10. About 50 percent of the power requirements of the installation were provided by its thermo-electric power plant, which burned Upper Silesian hard coal shipped to the plant by rail. The additional power required was delivered from Breslau. Maximum power consumption was about 5 megawatts. The power consumption will increase after the alkali chloride electrolytic department is opened. It was believed that the additional power requirements would be met by the installation of a fifth turbo-generator. During the winter 1956/1957, it was even planned to deliver three megawatts to Breslau from the Rokita installation.
11. Raw materials arriving at the plant included: ethyl alcohol, benzol in large quantities, methyl alcohol, mercury [] salt and sulfuric acid. 25X1
12. The production workers employed at the plant numbered approximately 3,000 of whom 99 percent were Poles and about 20 percent were women. Foreign

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- 3 -

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specialists were only observed during the assembly of imported machinery. They came exclusively from the GDR and [redacted] From 500 to 300 construction workers were employed, most of them from Upper Silesia. 25X1

13. Work was done in three eight-hour shifts. Social welfare and labor protection was neglected. A portion of the workforce was accommodated in some factory settlements [redacted] The majority of the workers were commuters, 25X1 however. Each worker was given from two to four weeks leave per year.

14. The production of the Rokita Works included the following commodities:

- a. Betanaphthol;
- b. Acethylene chlorides;
- c. Chlorobenzol;
- d. Acetic anhydride;
- e. Esters. Previously the esters required were imported from [redacted] 25X1 The production of esters is of the utmost importance for the Poles and the plant engaged in the production of esters was the most valued department of the Rokita Works. The USSR and Czechoslovakia were greatly interested in the ester department.
- f. Formalin. Formalin was produced on the contact process basis. About three batteries were in operation.
- g. Tannins "Garbniki";
- h. Nitro-compounds;
- i. Pentaerythrite. The production of this commodity had been suspended for months. The Rokita Works were in contact with Hungary regarding the best methods for producing this substance.
- k. Phenol;
- l. Oxygen, which is delivered to industrial plants in Breslau and the surrounding area.
- m. Pest control agents called gammax by the Poles;
- n. Commodities of military importance were also produced.

The above list of commodities may not be complete and details on the further use and processing of these commodities were not available.

15. The Rokita Works were guarded by a factory police (Straz przemyslowa). About 25 police were on duty during each shift. Twenty-five percent of the police were women. The police wore a black uniform with blue collar patches and visor-type caps and were armed with carbines. The factory area was

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surrounded with a board fence about 2.5 m high and provided with some strands of barbed wire. From 15 to 20 watch towers had been set up along the fence. The watch towers were occupied day and night and during the night the fence was illuminated. Air raid precautionary measures were not observed. Two air raid shelters dating from the German time were still available but they were no longer in use.

16.

 a sketch of the physical layout of the Rokita plant, with a detailed legend in German.

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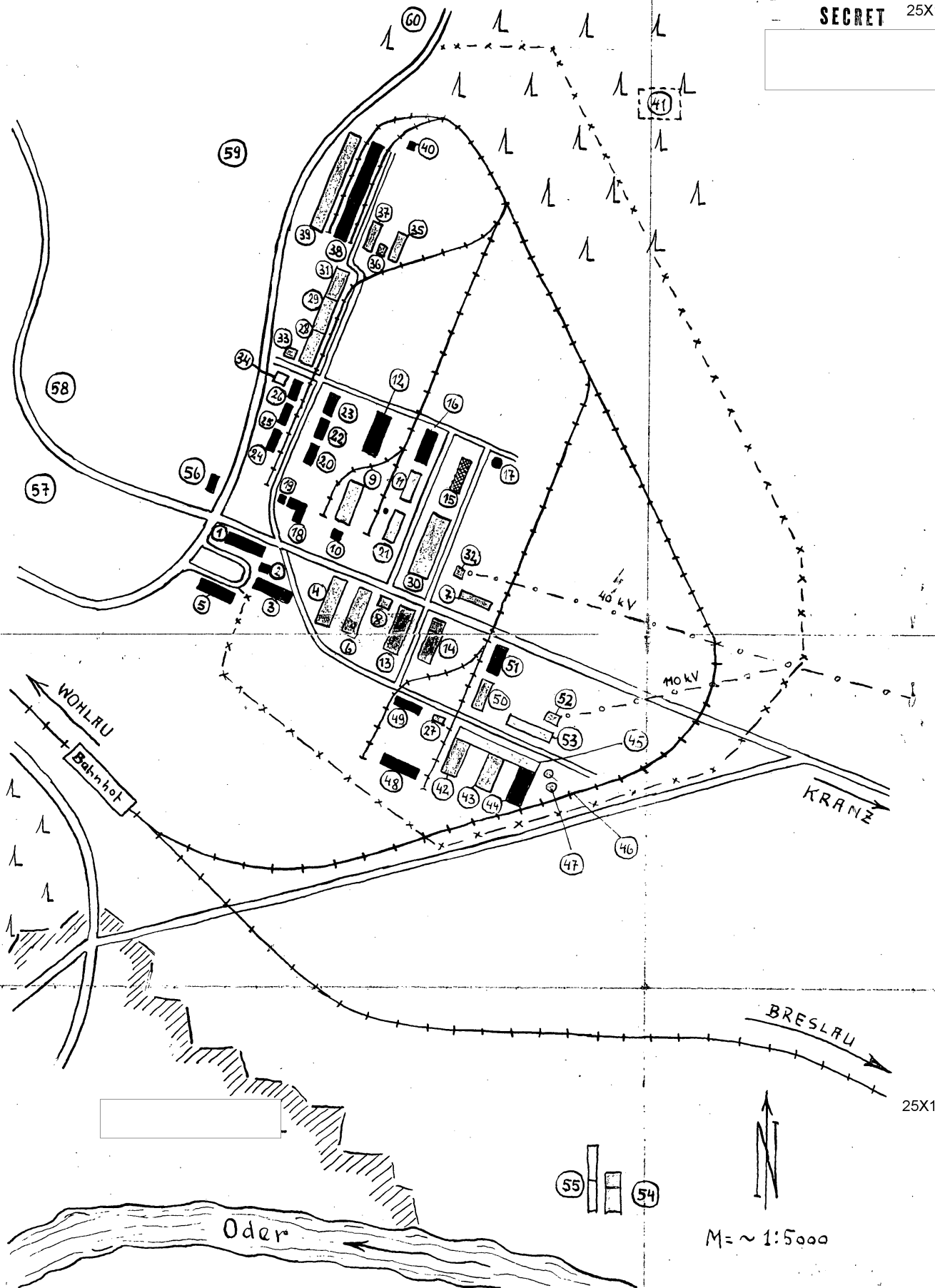
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